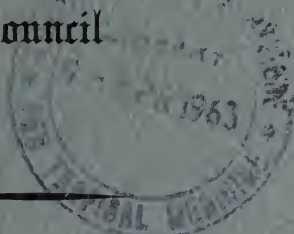


Bishop's Stortford Urban District
Council



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1959



Boardmans, Printers, Bishop's Stortford

Bishop's Stortford Urban District
Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1959

Members of the Council, 1959-1960

Chairman:

Councillor D. G. LACY, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor P. L. T. WALKER, B.A.

Chairman-Elect:

Councillor J. E. BARRY

Councillor J. H. ALSTON

„ H. R. DARNELL

„ R. E. C. GILBERT

„ J. E. HAMPTON

„ C. E. A. HANDSCOMB

„ W. HICKS

„ G. HURST-GREAVES

„ P. G. KING

„ R. MERRILL

„ H. F. RUTTER

„ MRS. V. SPARROW

„ Lt.-Col. R. J. VENN, T.D., M.I.CHEM.E.,
ASSOC.I.MECH.E.

„ H. J. WALTERS

„ G. H. WILLIAMS

„ T. G. WOOLLEY

Public Health Department

EIRWEN M. HARRISON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

A. L. GOOD, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E., A.I.Hsg.

Chief Public Health Inspector

Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

H. W. CHILDS, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector

R. C. BROWN,

Pupil Public Health Inspector

Miss J. RODGERS,

Clerk/Shorthand Typist

A TURNER,

Rodent Operator

Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council

Public Health Department,
The Council House,
Bishop's Stortford,
June, 1960

*To the Chairman and Members,
Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. SPARROW AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to submit the following Report for the year 1959, on the health of the Bishop's Stortford Urban District which has been drawn up on the lines indicated in the Circular issued by the Ministry of Health.

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population of 17,240 shows an increase of 950 over last year. This compares with a similar increase during 1958.

The birth rate was higher than the previous year and the death rate, after showing a decline for four consecutive years, revealed a slight rise. The infantile mortality rate was higher, there being five infant deaths under one year. Four of these babies failed to survive one week and the fifth lived for less than four weeks.

Infectious disease notifications were relatively low, the total number being 128. Seventy-five cases of measles were reported but for the second year in succession, there were no cases of Poliomyelitis. The Urban District was involved in an outbreak of food poisoning towards the end of the year. This outbreak had its origin outside the town and fuller details are given later in this report.

One of the great rewards for efficient local government administration is without doubt good health, and, whilst the Public Health Department might be regarded as the watch-dog in this respect, much depends upon the team spirit displayed in the Council Chamber and throughout the various departments. This factual report which follows, speaks statistically for itself. Good health was maintained during 1959 and the co-operation and support freely given by the Chairman and members of the Council and our departmental colleagues, is gratefully acknowledged.

We are,

Your obedient Servants,

EIRWEN M. HARRISON,
Medical Officer of Health

A. L. GOOD,
Chief Public Health Inspector

SECTION A

Statistics

(1) General

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	3,826
Population	...	...	...	...	17,240
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£240,007
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£971
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	5,525
Density of Persons per Acre	...	...	...	...	4.51
„ Houses	„	...	...	...	1.44
Average Number of Occupants per House	...	...	...	...	3.12

(2) Vital

	Birth Rate per 1,000 population	Death Rate per 1,000 population	Infantile Mortality Rate Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Births
England and Wales	16.5	11.6	22.0
Bishop's Stortford	20.07	10.44	14.45

BIRTHS

Number of Legitimate Births	...	...	333
„ Illegitimate Births	...	...	13
Percentage of Illegitimate Births to Total Births	...	...	3.9
Total Number of Births, <i>Males</i>	185		
<i>Females</i>	161		346

DEATHS

Total Number of Deaths	...	...	180
------------------------	-----	-----	-----

(3) Mortality Table

Causes of Death				Males	Females	Total
	All Causes			96	84	180
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...			—	—	—
2	Other forms of Tuberculosis ...			—	—	—
3	Syphilitic Disease			—	—	—
4	Diphtheria			—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough			—	—	—
6	Meningococcal Infections ...			—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis			—	—	—
8	Measles			—	—	—
9	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases			—	—	—
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach...			1	2	3
11	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus			3	1	4
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...			—	3	3
13	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...			—	3	3
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms			10	12	22
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia			1	—	1
16	Diabetes			—	—	—
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System			7	15	22
18	Coronary Disease, Angina			25	10	35
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease			2	—	2
20	Other Heart Disease			6	9	15
21	Other Circulatory Disease ...			1	7	8
22	Influenza			2	—	2
23	Pneumonia			15	4	19
24	Bronchitis			5	3	8
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System			—	—	—
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum			4	—	4
27	Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea ...			—	1	1
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis			2	—	2
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate			1	—	1
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion			—	—	—
31	Congenital Malformations			—	1	1
32	Other defined and ill defined Diseases			4	7	11
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents			—	1	1
34	All other Accidents			5	1	6
35	Suicide			2	3	5
36	Homicide and Operations of War			—	1	1
	Still Births			5	6	11
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age (FOUR under 1 week of age)			2	3	5

Five infants succumbed under the age of one year and four of these deaths occurred within the first twelve hours of life. Two were markedly premature, another was Anencephalic and the fourth suffered from Atelectasis.

One infant who died at 19 days was asphyxiated and this was the only one of the five infants, whose death could have been regarded as avoidable.

SECTION B

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases

(1) Notifiable Diseases

Notifications of the following infectious diseases were received during the year:

Disease			All Ages	Under 1 year	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 60	Over Sixty
Catarrhal Jaundice	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Enteric Fever	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	19	—	1	—	1	—	6	10	1
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles	...	...	75	1	15	15	37	4	2	1	—
Pneumonia	...	...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	11	—	1	2	7	1	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	...	...	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	8	—	—	1	7	—	—	—	—

Disease		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Catarrhal Jaundice	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	9
Infective Hepatitis	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	9	24	16	7	8	—	6	4	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia	...	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	—	1	—	5	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
Tuberculosis	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	3
Whooping Cough	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	6

There was a low incidence of specific infectious diseases during the year. The measles notifications were received mainly during February and March and once again Whooping Cough notifications were satisfactorily low. This, no doubt, reflected the continued policy of encouraging parents to accept immunisation for their infants.

Although eleven notifications only were received for Scarlet Fever it was known that Streptococcal infections were more numerous and severe among children than in recent years. Response to antio-biotics was rapid but relapses appeared to be more common and some private practitioners were concerned when serious sequelae such as nephritis, carditis and rheumatoid tendencies were encountered.

Following consultation with the School Health Authorities it was decided not to undertake routine swabbing procedures in the schools.

(2) Tuberculosis

	MALES		FEMALES	
	Pul.	Non.-P.	Pul.	Non.-P.
Cases on Register at 31.12.58 ...	42	6	45	11
Number of Cases notified during year ...	4	—	2	1
Inward Transfer ...	5	—	8	—
Cases removed ...	1	—	2	1
Cases on Register at 31.12.59 ...	50	6	53	11

(3) Food Poisoning

Nineteen Food Poisoning notifications were received during the year. Two notifications concerned adults in one household but neither the organism nor the source of infection was identified. Two children in another household were infected with Salmonella Typhi-Murium but again the source was not discovered.

Information was received from a private practitioner in late November that some of his patients had symptoms of Food Poisoning after attending a social gathering in London.

Routine investigations were made among 27 individuals who were present at the function or were family contacts of those who had attended. Fifteen of these were found to be

excreting Salmonella Typhi-Murium Phage Type 2C and were subsequently notified as suffering from Food Poisoning.

Eight hundred people in all were at risk and it was known that 193 individuals were affected of whom fifteen lived in Bishop's Stortford. One common factor emerged during the investigations—that being the consumption of chicken vol-au-vent by fourteen out of the total of fifteen Bishop's Stortford people involved. The incubation period varied from four to forty-four hours and the symptoms were severe. The acute phase persisted in some individuals for seven days.

Four of those affected were food handlers and excellent co-operation was obtained from the owners of the business concerned. The food handlers did not return to duty until three consecutive negative results were obtained. There were no secondary cases.

(4) Prophylactic Measures

The County Health Authority continued this work through the Private Practitioners and the Infant Welfare Centre.

Vaccination was available against smallpox, poliomyelitis, whooping cough and diphtheria. Tuberculosis vaccination was also available for the 13 year old group of school children. Most practitioners used the Triple vaccine which gave protection against Tetanus in addition to Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.

(5) National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951, Section 47

It was necessary to take action under this Act concerning an elderly lady aged 87. She had been under observation by the Department for several months and had reached the stage when she was unable to care for herself and was refusing help from others.

Joint action was taken with her Private Practitioner and an order was obtained authorising her removal to hospital. She died within three days of admission.

Such action can only be taken as a last resort when all the ancilliary sources have been mobilised and have failed or have been consistently refused.

(6) Refuse Disposal

The disposal of refuse on the Council's own refuse tip was continued by means of controlled tipping. It became increasingly clear during the year however, that tipping on this site would cease before the end of 1960 and the Council had to give

much thought and consideration towards the selection of alternative tipping sites. Planning approval for new refuse tips is also becoming a real difficulty.

(7) Drainage and Sewerage

Construction work on the new South Street sewer began on June 1st, 1959 and by the end of the year the new sewer had been completed from London Road to the junction of Southmill Road and South Street.

(8) Water Supply

14 samples of drinking water were submitted to the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and eight samples of drinking water were also submitted to the Public Analyst at Cambridge for chemical and bacteriological examination. All the samples were reported upon as satisfactory.

(9) Swimming Pools

Samples of water were taken from the Council's swimming pool and from the indoor and outdoor swimming pools at Bishop's Stortford College and submitted for bacteriological examination. 75 samples were taken and all but two from the College indoor pool were reported upon as satisfactory. Follow-up samples were taken in respect of the failures and all these and subsequent samples were found to be satisfactory.

(10) Housing Accommodation

During the year the Authority proceeded with a scheme to erect 52 dwellings of a better type in the Parsonage Lane area and also towards finalising the plans for a scheme to build 28 dwellings for elderly people at Elmhurst. This scheme included wardens quarters and a communal room for future social activities.

Visits were paid to all elderly applicants who were on the waiting list for accommodation of this latter type and medical points were instituted for physical disabilities, state of the accommodation and other environmental factors affecting the health of the applicants.

Clearly, there is going to be an increased need for accommodation of a suitable type for the elderly. This need should be partly satisfied by local authorities but, has not the time come for our planners and private builders to evolve some way of

fitting such accommodation into all new housing communities?

Many elderly property owners find themselves tied to houses they can barely maintain and many have little if any hope of obtaining local authority accommodation. They would welcome a move to small, convenient, moderately priced accommodation similar to that provided by local authorities were such available to them for sale or, better still, to rent.

(11) Safety in the Home

A campaign was organised in the town during one week commencing on February 16th to bring the problem of Home Accidents to the notice of the public.

The scope of the week's activities was greatly limited by finance and a grant of £15 from the County Council was barely adequate.

A few shops co-operated well and gave the subject prominence by using their goods in special window displays and most of the remaining business premises willingly displayed posters and literature. Literature was also made available and posters were shown at the Doctors and Dentists Surgeries, Hospitals, Local Organisations, Libraries and Factories.

A short film was screened at the local cinema and exhibits were displayed in the Infant Welfare Centre and at one of the local Hospitals.

Literature and posters were sent out to the schools, but this material was paid for by the County Health Authority. A Home Safety Film was made available to the schools, but a few only made use of it.

The poster competition for school children proved interesting and the standard of the entries was high but the number of schools taking part was somewhat disappointing. The local press were most co-operative and gave publicity to the campaign in their writings and agreed to display the winning posters in their window during the whole week. This gesture was very much appreciated.

SECTION C

Public Health Administration

(1) Inspection of the District

The Department was augmented during the year by the appointment of a Pupil Public Health Inspector and although much time has to be devoted to the training of a pupil, there are a number of minor duties which he can successfully accomplish after a little tuition. 6,709 visits were carried out, details of which are given below. Thus it can truthfully be said that the Public Health Department has "its finger on the pulse" and is therefore able to apply remedial measures very quickly when conditions are not as healthy as they should be.

Total number of Visits	6,709
Dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts	1,192
Revisits to houses for housing defects	1,753
Houses inspected—overcrowding	3
Premises inspected on Complaint or Nuisance	118
Drainage and Drain Tests	153
Stables and Piggeries	18
Markets	147
Factories (Power and Non-Power)	39
Factories Act—Building Sites	1
Outworkers	1
Workplaces, Offices and Shops	37
Schools	15
Moveable Dwellings	12
Water Supply and Sampling	55
Swimming Pool and Sampling	23
Places of Entertainment	7
Infectious Diseases and Disinfection	217
Refuse Disposal	35
Rodent Control	178
Atmospheric Pollution	111
Vermin and Insect Pests	264
Petroleum	100
Miscellaneous Housing and Sanitary Visits	465
Interviews with Owners, Builders, etc.	287
Rent Act Visits	Nil
Meat and Food Inspection—Slaughterhouses	581
Shops and Stalls	57
Wholesalers, Canteens, etc.	64

Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	44
Dairies and Milk Distributors	...	...	...	...	...	9
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	13
Cafés, Restaurants and Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	51
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	12
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	69
Ice Cream Premises and Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	13
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	9
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	21
Street Markets	...	...	...	...	...	373
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sugar Confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	16
Other Food Premises and Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	25
Milk Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	48
Ice Cream Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	29
Other Foods Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	25
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	17

(2) Special Premises

Particulars of the number and type of all the special premises on the register at the end of 1959 are given below: —

Factories

(a) With Mechanical Power	...	...	...	112
(b) Without Mechanical Power	...	...	...	7

Food Premises

Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	4
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	15
Canteens						
(a) Schools	...	...	...	...	...	15
(b) Factories	...	...	...	...	...	1
(c) Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	2
Clubs						
(a) Non-Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	12
(b) Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	11
Dairymen and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fishmongers						
(a) Wet and Fried Fish	...	...	...	...	...	3
(b) Wet Fish	...	...	...	...	...	3
(c) Fried Fish	...	...	...	...	...	2
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	11
Grocers						
(a) Non-Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	39
(b) Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	35

Restaurants							
(a) Non-Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
(b) Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Sugar Confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
<i>Non Food Shops</i>							
Antiques	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Boots and Shoes	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Chemists	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Clothiers	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Electrical Goods	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Florists	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Furnishers	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Hairdressers	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Ironmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Jewellers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Leather Goods	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Milliners	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Newsagents	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Opticians	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Pet Shops and Seed Merchants	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Radio and Television	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Stationers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Toys	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wall Paper	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
<i>Workplaces</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	44

(3) Complaints and Matters Referred

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	1,021
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	...	...	979
Complaints referred to other Departments and Authorities	...	...	...	...	...	42
Other matters referred to other Departments and Authorities	...	...	...	...	...	20

(4) Testing of Drains and Sanitary Fittings

Drains tested with water	...	...	...	...	3
Drains tested with other means	...	...	...	...	31

(5) Notices Served and the Results of the Service of such Notices

	No. Served	No. complied with
(a) Preliminary Notices		
(i) Dwelling Houses for Housing Defects	60	141
(ii) Special Premises (shops, factories, etc.)	7	4
(b) Statutory Notices		

See Housing Section for Details.

N.B.—The number of notices complied with includes notices outstanding from the previous year.

(6) Summary of Improvements Effected

	At Dwelling Houses	At Food Premises	At Shops, Offices, Hotels, etc.
Accumulations removed	1	1	—
Ceilings repaired	43	2	1
Chimney stacks repaired or renewed	66	1	—
Dampness remedied	25	1	1
Disinfections and Disinfestations	291	24	181
Doorsteps provided or improved ...	34	1	—
Doors repaired or renewed	83	2	2
Drains cleared or repaired	8	—	—
Drain inspection chambers provided, renewed or improved	10	2	2
Drains laid or drains relaid	5	1	2
Drain ventilation provided or im- proved	6	—	2
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed...	53	1	2
External decoration... ..	37	5	1
Fireplaces repaired or renewed ...	34	—	2
Floors repaired or renewed	77	4	2
Food stores provided or improved ...	11	—	—
Garden walls or fences provided or improved	5	—	—
Handrails provided to stairs	39	—	1
Outbuildings or other structures de- molished	7	—	—
Roofs repaired	97	3	—
Rooms redecorated and cleansed ...	36	6	2
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	41	—	2
Staircases repaired or renewed ...	7	—	1
Sub-floor ventilation improved ...	8	—	—
Ventilation improved (air brick) ...	9	—	—
Wall plaster repaired	110	2	1
Walls repaired or renewed (Internal)	87	2	1
Walls repaired or renewed (Ex- ternal)	166	2	1
Washing coppers provided or im- proved	4	—	—
WATER CLOSETS			
Cisterns repaired	11	—	2
Compartments provided/rebuilt ...	6	1	—
Flushpipe joints repaired	9	—	—
Improved	31	1	2
Pedestals provided	27	1	2
Seats repaired or renewed	38	1	—
WATER SUPPLY			
Gulleys provided	11	1	2
Hot water supply provided or im- proved	5	4	2
Internal water supply provided ...	8	—	—
Sinks, baths or basins provided ...	37	2	4
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	21	1	—
Water butts provided	4	—	—
Water supply pipes repaired or renewed	5	1	—
Water tanks—overflows repaired...	—	—	—
Windows provided or improved ...	152	4	2
Yard Paving provided or improved	48	1	1
Miscellaneous	5	1	2
FOOD PREMISES			
Clothing lockers provided	—	2	—
Equipment provided or improved	—	1	1
First Aid kit provided	—	2	1
Food display improved	—	2	—
Food handling improved	—	3	1
Refrigerator provided	—	2	—
Soap, towels, etc. provided	—	2	1
Smoking—cautions given	—	8	—
W.C. notices posted	—	—	—

(7) Disinfection and Disinfestation

Disinfection was carried out at four premises during the year following cases of infectious disease. 492 properties were disinfested and in this connection 457 wasp's nests were destroyed.

The Council provides a free service for the destruction of wasp's nests and, judging by the reports received from members of the Council and from other residents, the service is very much appreciated.

'Beat the Fly' Campaign

A 'Beat the Fly' week was held during the period July 20th to 25th and proved to be most successful. Literature and leaflets were distributed to houses in the town by the local Boy Scouts, and it is pleasing to acknowledge the very useful and willing help given by the Scouts.

Talks were given to the local schools and the colour film-strip entitled 'The House Fly' was also shown.

A stall was designed and laid out with suitable objects and literature and was on display in the Market on Thursday 23rd July and on a site close to the Causeway Car Park on Saturday 25th July.

Much effort is required to organise a campaign such as this, but the keen interest displayed by members of the general public made the task well worthwhile.

(8) Atmospheric Pollution

The Council decided during the year to investigate the extent of atmospheric pollution in the town and a recording station was set up at the Council Offices. The Scientific Officers of the Atmospheric Pollution Division, Warren Spring Laboratory, advised as to the choice of instrument and the actual siting and a volumetric smoke and sulphur dioxide recording apparatus was acquired together with a reflectometer for reading the smoke filter stains. Official daily recordings commenced on 1st July, 1959 and the Council agreed to become one of the co-operating bodies and to submit monthly records to the Atmospheric Pollution Division of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

The average figures recorded at Bishop's Stortford for the period July to December, 1959, are detailed below and, in order for a comparison to be made, the average figures for the six worst sites and the six best sites in England and Wales, together with the average for the whole country (Co-operating Authorities only) are given for the year ending 31st March, 1957.

Department of Scientific and Industrial Research
Warren Spring Laboratory
Investigation of Atmospheric Pollution
30th Report—Year ending 31st March, 1957

Table 1

	SMOKE			SULPHUR DIOXIDE		
	Winter	Summer	Yearly Average	Winter	Summer	Yearly Average
Average for six worst sites	68	40	54	17	9	13
Average for whole country (Co-operating Authorities only)	27	13	21	9	5	7
Average for six best sites ...	2	1	2	3	2	3
Average for Bishop's Stortford, 1959, 1st July—31st December	12	4	Six months average 8	3.5	1.3	Six months average 2.4

Atmospheric Pollution
Average monthly figures of concentrations
recorded at Bishop's Stortford

Table 2

1959 MONTH	SMOKE			SULPHUR DIOXIDE		
	Average Value	Highest Value	Lowest Value	Average Value	Highest Value	Lowest Value
JULY	3	7	1	1.4	3.6	0.5
AUGUST	3	9	1	1.3	2.8	0.4
SEPTEMBER	5	14	1	1.1	4.6	0.3
OCTOBER	8	17	3	1.9	4.7	0.8
NOVEMBER	17	38	7	4.8	8.0	1.8
DECEMBER	12	27	4	3.8	9.3	1.3

Smoke Concentration—Expressed in milligrams per 100 cubic metres of air.

Sulphur Dioxide Concentration (Volumetric Method)—Expressed in parts per 100 million parts of air.

(9) Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) FOOD HYGIENE

1959 could be regarded as a year of consolidation in the realm of food hygiene and many improvements were carried out, full details of which are given in the tabulated statement.

It was necessary, however, to caution eight food handlers for smoking and every effort will be made to stamp out this undesirable practice—by legal proceedings, if necessary. Smoking should of course be prohibited entirely in food premises and the rule ought to apply to food handler and customer alike. Perhaps the day is not far distant when all firms engaged in the handling of food will follow the very fine example set by at least one of the well known food traders and prohibit smoking in any form. Proof enough here that the customer is not always right.

(b) MARKETS

The regular weekly inspection of all the markets is a feature of the work of the Department and is an important aspect, bearing in mind that each week, in addition to the street market there is a cattle, poultry and rabbit market and a covered market. The amount of business carried out in this way has increased very considerably during the last decade and there is need for a fairly strict control. However, the market traders have always been most helpful and co-operative in every way and, an interesting fact which it is pleasing to record is that only one complaint in respect of the markets was received by the Department during the year.

(c) MILK SUPPLY

There are three producers and four retailers of milk in Bishop's Stortford and only heat treated milk is now sold.

98 samples of bottled milk and 16 samples of cream were taken in course of delivery to the consumer during the year and submitted to the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory for examination. All samples were reported upon as satisfactory. The dairies responsible for this fine achievement deserve praise for providing a clean, safe milk supply.

Designation	No. of Samples Taken	No. Satis- factory	No. Unsatis- factory
Pasteurised Milk	32	32	—
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk	43	43	—
Sterilised Milk	23	23	—
Cream	16	16	—

(d) MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF ICE-CREAM

Fifty-seven premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream and this represents an increase of four over the previous year.

Bacteriological Examination

Twenty-one samples of ice-cream and twenty-one ice-llies were submitted to the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and all but one sample of ice-cream were reported upon as satisfactory.

Following the unsatisfactory report upon the sample of ice-cream a routine check was carried out at the retailers premises. It was found that the sterilisation of the ice-cream serving equipment was faulty and advice as to the best methods of sterilisation was given. The retailer was most co-operative and all subsequent samples taken at these premises were found to be satisfactory.

(e) MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION

Ten premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the preparation and manufacture of preserved food as follows:—

Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sausages and Brawn	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sausages and Cooked Meats	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meat Pickling	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cooked Hams	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

2,602 animals were killed at the private slaughterhouse, 4, South Street and all were inspected. Details of the meat condemned are given in the tables below. It will be noted that three cases of cysticercus bovis were detected during the year, compared with four in 1958. In each case the infection was localised, the infected parts being condemned and the carcasses placed in cold storage for a period of twenty-one days.

(f) MISCELLANEOUS FOOD SAMPLING

69 samples of various foods were submitted to the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. These samples were in respect of cake extender, manufacturing cheese, ice-cream powder, lemonade powder, flavoured milk drink, orange drink, sausage improver, whey powder and "yogurt". Three samples of "yogurt" were found to be unsatisfactory and the matter was taken up with the producer. Subsequent follow-up samples were all reported upon as satisfactory.

(g) DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

Meat condemned at the slaughterhouse was collected regularly by a reputable firm for processing and manufacture into animal foods, fertilisers, glue and soap. All other condemned food was collected and disposed of, under supervision, on the Council's controlled tip. The total amount of food condemned was less than the previous year and amounted to 2.6248 tons as compared with 3.608 tons during 1958.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	263	1	41	1190	1107
Number Inspected	263	1	41	1190	1107
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis:					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	3	4
Weight in lb. condemned	—	—	—	198	392
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	76	—	5	40	271
Weight in lb. condemned	691	—	11	52	883
Percentage affected	28.897	—	12.195	3.613	24.842
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Weight in lb. condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	13	—	—	—	27
Weight in lb. condemned	224	—	—	—	327
Percentage affected	4.943	—	—	—	2.439
Cysticercosis only:					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	—	—	—	—
Weight in lb. condemned	101	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	3	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Weight in lb. condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage affected	1.141	—	—	—	—

TOTAL AMOUNT OF CONDEMNED MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

At Slaughterhouse

Meat 2,879 lb. or 1.285 tons

At Food Shops and Wholesale Premises

Meat and Other Foods ... 3,001 lb. or 1.3398 tons

Total 5,880 lb. or 2.6248 tons

DETAILS OF MEAT CONDEMNED

	Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Totals
Heads & Tongues	193 lb.	—	10 lb.	326 lb.	529 lb.
Lungs ...	200 lb.	1 lb.	45 lb.	272 lb.	518 lb.
Hearts ...	10 lb.	1 lb.	4 lb.	45 lb.	60 lb.
Livers ...	589 lb.	3 lb.	15 lb.	296 lb.	903 lb.
Kidneys ...	—	1 lb.	—	8 lb.	9 lb.
Spleens ...	—	—	—	1 lb.	1 lb.
Mesenterys ...	12 lb.	—	—	5 lb.	17 lb.
Udders ...	—	—	—	71 lb.	71 lb.
Legs ...	6 lb.	5 lb.	3 lb.	53 lb.	67 lb.
Carcase Meat ...	6 lb.	—	173 lb.	525 lb.	704 lb.
Totals ...	1016 lb.	11 lb.	250 lb.	1602 lb.	2879 lb.

DETAILS OF FOODSTUFFS FOUND UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Description	Weight		Galls.	No. of Tins	Description	Weight		Galls.	No. of Tins
	lb.	oz.				lb.	oz.		
Apples ...	32	8	—	5	Oranges ...	59	3	—	86
Apricots ...	241	14	—	31	Peaches ...	32	3	—	12
Baby Foods ...	11	6½	—	39	Pears ...	9	4	—	5
Bananas ...	61	10	—	—	Peas ...	167	2½	—	111
Beans ...	10	2½	—	15	Pickle ...	—	11	—	1
Beef (Meat) ...	374	12	—	—	Pilchards ...	5	15	—	6
Beef (Minced) ...	60	—	—	—	Pineapple ...	72	11½	—	50
Beef (Tinned) ...	—	7½	—	1	Pork (Meat) ...	94	—	—	—
Beetroot ...	—	9½	—	1	Pork (Tinned) ...	256	—	—	73
Cheese ...	35	—	—	—	Prawns ...	15	8	—	2
Cherries ...	18	5½	—	15	Prunes ...	—	8	—	1
Chicken ...	—	—	—	—	Rice (16 pkts.) ...	8	—	—	—
Croquettes (12) ...	3	—	—	—	Salad (Fruit) ...	4	8	—	5
Corned Beef ...	191	12	—	67	Salmon (Fresh) ...	4	—	—	—
Crabs ...	56	—	—	—	Salmon (Tin'd) ...	4	2¾	—	8
Escallops (24) ...	9	—	—	—	Sardines ...	—	9	—	2
Fish ...	—	—	—	—	Sausages (Beef) ...	6	—	—	—
Croquettes (36) ...	9	—	—	—	Semolina (9 pkts.) ...	4	8	—	—
Fish (Wet) ...	70	—	—	2	Shrimps ...	—	—	3	—
Grapes ...	1	12	—	4	Soup ...	21	11	—	24
Grapefruit ...	4	—	—	16	Spaghetti ...	6	8	—	11
Ham ...	217	8	—	2	Stewed Steak ...	6	14	—	7
Herrings ...	1	12	—	3	Tomatoes ...	360	12	—	341
Jam ...	6	—	—	—	Tongue (Ox) ...	13	—	—	3
Kidneys (Ox) ...	47	—	—	—	Vegetables (Mixed) ...	13	—	—	16
Lamb ...	76	—	—	2	Veal ...	18	—	—	3
Lemon Curd ...	105	4	—	11	Winkles ...	—	—	6	—
Loganberries ...	2	—	—	1	Totals ...	3001	2¾	9	1069
Luncheon Meat ...	82	5	—	—					
Milk ...	11	—	—	—					
Mushrooms ...	—	7½	—	—					
Oats (Rolled) ...	76	—	—	—					

(10) Rodent Control

(i) Disinfestation of Sewers

The sewer maintenance treatment was carried out in April and May, baits being laid in nineteen manholes but in only one instance was the bait completely eaten. The sewers are not, therefore seriously rat infested.

(ii) Disinfestation of Surface Properties

Number of Dwelling Houses treated	...	...	412
„ Business Premises treated	...	...	188
„ Council Premises treated	...	...	48
„ Agricultural Premises treated	...	...	29
„ Pre-baits laid	...	...	351
„ Pre-baits partly taken	...	...	146
„ „ completely taken	...	...	122
„ Poison Baits laid	...	...	3,054
„ „ partly taken	...	...	1,058
„ „ completely taken	...	...	505
„ Bodies recovered (a) rats	...	...	264
„ „ (b) mice	...	...	67
„ „ (c) moles	...	...	2
Total number of visits made by the operator			1,860

(11) The Storage of Petroleum Spirit

Sixty-two premises were licensed for the storage of Petroleum Spirit and Fees received by the Council in respect of these licences amounted to £44 0s. 0d.

(12) The Provision of Dustbins

1,560 dustbins were provided by the Council during the year, making a total of 4,492 dustbins supplied since the scheme was put into operation in July, 1954. It is estimated that by the end of 1960, standardised dustbins will have been issued to nearly all properties in the town. This represents a very fine achievement.

(13) Pet Animals Act, 1951

Three licences were renewed by the Council during the year in respect of the keeping of pet shops.

(14) Factories Act, 1937

Forty visits were made to the factories on the register and it was found necessary in two instances to serve informal notices where contraventions existed.

Thirty-nine outworkers were employed during the year by the various factories in the district, an increase of 10 over the previous year.

Two certificates of adequate means of escape in case of fire were issued by the local authority, one of these being an amended certificate.

Part I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	7	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	112	35	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	15	1	—	—
TOTAL ...	134	40	2	—

2. CASES in which defects were found

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (s 1) ...	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (s 2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (s 3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (s 4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (s 6) ...	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (s 7) :					
(a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	2	—	—	2	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	6	4	—	2	—

(15) Housing

Number of new houses erected during the year: —

(a) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	4
(b) By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	309
Number of houses made available by conversion or adaptation of existing buildings	...	...	...	1

HOUSING ACT, 1957

Statutory Notices under Section 16, Housing Act, 1957, were served during the year in respect of the following dwelling houses.

70, Dunmow Road.

25, 27 and 29, London Road.

103, Rye Street.

Undertakings to render the houses fit for human habitation were subsequently accepted by the Council from the owner of 70, Dunmow Road and 103, Rye Street. The Council was also informed that a scheme for repairing and improving 25, 27 and 29, London Road would be submitted for consideration in due course.

HOUSES RENDERED FIT

141 houses were rendered fit during the year by the owners following the service of informal notices. It is interesting to record in this respect that no less than 1,818 items of repair to dwelling houses received attention. This compares with a figure of 895 for the previous year and is most encouraging.

HOUSES CLOSED

103, Rye Street and 27, London Road were closed during the year.

HOUSES DEMOLISHED

58, 60, 62, 64 and 66, London Road and 68, Hadham Road were demolished during the year.

